

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 1, 2, and 3 to correct for minor informalities.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-18 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art on pages 1-3 in view of Kawata (U.S. Patent 6,076,171) (hereinafter Kawata).

With respect to claims 1-18, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an electronic apparatus comprising:

“a display section;

an input section having a plurality of keys;

a backlighting section for backlighting the display section and/or the input section;

a mode detecting section for detecting a currently set operation mode that is one of a plurality of different predetermined operation modes; and

a backlighting control section for controlling brightness of the backlighting section depending on the currently set operation mode.” (Underlines added for emphasis)

The electronic apparatus including the above-quoted features allows for the brightness of a backlighting section to be controlled based on a currently set operation mode that is one of a plurality of different predetermined operation modes. Such a configuration makes it possible to adjust the brightness of the backlighting section to a suitable brightness for each of the operation modes of the electronic apparatus. For example, the brightness of the backlighting section could be reduced when the electronic apparatus is in data input mode. Therefore, it is possible to reduce power consumption and extend the life of a battery used to power the electronic apparatus. Advantages such as those described above are discussed in the specification (e.g. page 11, lines 17-21; page 16, lines 12-18; page 20, lines 13-19).

The Examiner states that the conventional method as disclosed in Applicant's Admitted Prior Art is silent in changing the brightness of a display for power saving. For this teaching, the Examiner points to Kawata as teaching to set the brightness of a display based on a current operation mode of a device so as to reduce power consumption. However, Kawata only teaches to control the brightness of a display based on a system clock frequency or a CPU performance level, but not based on a current operation mode (see Kawata column 20, lines 34-48). In Kawata, as the demand for CPU power of a computer system decreases due to less frequency of use of the computer system by the user, the brightness of the display system lowers (see Kawata column 20, lines 56-61). In contrast, the brightness of the backlighting section of the electronic apparatus of the present claim does not vary based on frequency of use of the electronic apparatus, but varies based on the current operation mode.

For example, the electronic apparatus of the present claim could reduce the brightness of the backlighting section when the electronic apparatus is in data input mode. Such a predictable reduction in brightness would not be possible with the apparatus in Kawata because the data input mode may increase the demand for CPU power and, thus, increase the brightness of the display in Kawata. Hence, changing brightness based on frequency of computer system use is different than changing brightness based on a current operation mode.

Therefore, independent claim 1, as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art and, hence, is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 16, as amended, recites a method for controlling the brightness of a backlighting section of an electronic apparatus similar to the operation of the electronic apparatus of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 16 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

All dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By *David A. Blumenthal*

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5407

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257